

shown in the enlarged fragmentary view Fig. 5 also looking generally in the same direction as Fig. 3. the drive shaft 39 of each generator includes a drive gear (or gears) 42 in driven relationship with the track 34 of the shroud ring 24.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 12 and 20 without prejudice. Please add new claims 22-26. Please amend claims 1, 11, 13, 16-18, and 21. Presented below are the claims, including amended claims and claims not amended, in a clean, unmarked format.

1. (Amended) A shroud system for a wind turbine comprising:

- a. a central hub;
- b. a first connecting structure having a root portion and a tip portion, wherein said root portion is attached to the hub;
- c. a shroud having an internal surface, an external surface, and a ring gear to drive a generator, wherein the internal surface is attached to the tips of the connecting structure;
- d. a second set of connecting structure having a root portion and a tip portion, wherein said root portion is attached in such a manner as to extend beyond the external surface of the shroud; and
- e. a nacelle having a strut to affix the generator.

2. The shroud system of claim 1, wherein the connecting structure comprises blades.

3. The shroud system of claim 2, wherein the second set of blades is attached directly to the external surface of the shroud when the blades are fixed pitch.

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4. The shroud system of claim 2, further including a plurality of rotatable drive shafts extending radially outward from the external surface of the shroud in one-to-one correspondence with the second set of blades for supporting each blade in variable pitch configuration.

5. The shroud system of claim 2, wherein the second set of blades are of variable pitch.

6. The shroud system of claim 1, further comprising:

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a. a plurality of rotatable mounting posts in one-to-one relationship with the second set of blades and extending radially outward from the shroud for supporting each of the second set of blades; and

b. a control motor for driving each post and controlling the angular position thereof for determining the pitch of the second set of blades.

7. The shroud system of claim 6, wherein each mounting post extends through the shroud and to the hub.

8. The shroud system of claim 7, wherein the control motor is mounted within the hub.

9. The shroud system of claim 7, wherein the mounting post is carried within a corresponding of the first set of blades.

10. The shroud system of claim 9, wherein the first set of blades is mounted in a fixed relationship with the shroud for providing a fixed pitch blade.

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11. (Amended) The shroud system of claim 2, wherein the first set of blades is mounted in a fixed relationship with a mounting post for providing a variable pitch blade.

13. (Amended) The shroud system of claim 1, wherein the ring gear is on the internal surface of the shroud.

14. The shroud system of claim 1, wherein the shroud is a circular ring.

15. The shroud system of claim 1, wherein the shroud is a polygonal shape.

16. (Amended) A wind turbine comprising:

a. a tower;
b. a nacelle mounted on said tower;
c. a hub mounted for rotation on a shaft supported within the nacelle;
d. a plurality of first rotor blades, said blades having a root end and a tip end, wherein the first rotor blades or structures are attached at said root end to a hub and said hub being secured to said shaft extending from the nacelle, the nacelle having a strut to affix a generator;

e. a shroud having an internal surface and an external surface, wherein the internal surface of the shroud is attached to the tip ends of said first rotor blades or structures, the shroud having a ring gear for driving at least one generator; and

f. a plurality of second rotor blades, said blades having a root end and a tip end, wherein the root ends of the second rotor blades attach to the external surface of the

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shroud when the second rotor blades have a fixed pitch and the root ends of the second rotor blades attach to a drive shaft when the second rotor blades have a variable pitch.

17. (Amended) The wind turbine of claim 16, further comprising:

a driven gear on the generator and in engagement with the ring gear on the shroud.

18. (Amended) A wind turbine comprising:

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- a. a tower;
 - b. a nacelle having a support strut extending therefrom, said nacelle being mounted on said tower;
 - c. the nacelle further including a support shaft extending therefrom;
 - d. a generator incorporating a gear and being mounted on said support strut;
 - e. plurality of first rotor structures having a root end and a tip end, wherein the first rotor structures are attached at said root end to a hub and said hub being secured to said shaft extending from the nacelle;
 - f. a shroud having an internal surface and an external surface, wherein the internal surface of the shroud is attached to the tip ends of said first fixed pitch rotor structure and wherein said shroud further includes a ring gear for interfacing the generator; and
 - g. a plurality of second rotor structures having a root end and a tip end, wherein the root ends of the second rotor structures attach to the external surface of the shroud when the second rotor structures have a fixed pitch.

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19. The wind turbine of claim 18, wherein the rotor structures are blades.

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21. (Amended) The shroud system of claim 18, wherein the ring gear is on the external surface of the shroud.

22. (New) The wind turbine of claim 18, wherein the root ends of the second rotor structures attach to a drive shaft when the second rotor structures have a variable pitch.

23. (New) A wind turbine system comprising:

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a hub;

a nacelle having a front end in the direction of the hub and an aft end; and

a housing attached to the nacelle at the aft end and containing one or more generator mounts and a stage of speed increasing gears.

24. (New) The wind turbine system of claim 23, wherein the housing further comprises a drive gear contained to drive at least one generator.

25. (New) The wind turbine system of claim 23, wherein the housing is completely closed.

26. (New) The wind turbine system of claim 23, wherein the housing has two or more generator mounts.